



IN THIS
ISSUE:

ACTION-PLUS WITH:

The **ATOM**

25¢

NO. 448

JUNE

30410



WHAT **EERIE MENACE** LURKS ON THE **13TH** FLOOR?



HE LEAPS ACROSS
THE HEAVENS WITH
THE MAJESTY OF
ANCIENT GODS AND
POWERS OF A...

SUPERMAN

WHAT'S GOING
ON? I STEPPED
OUT OF THE
ELEVATOR ON THE
13TH FLOOR
AND--

--AND YOU'RE
BEING PULLED
AWAY FROM EARTH
BY A FORCE EVEN
I CAN'T MATCH!

SORRY,
STEVE LOMBARD
--THERE'S NO WAY
I CAN SAVE YOU!

MILLIONS OF PEOPLE STEP INTO ELEVATORS
EVERY DAY AND RIDE THEM AS CASUALLY AS
A BICYCLE OR A MOVING STAIRWAY! BUT WHAT
HAPPENS WHEN THE **COMMONPLACE** BECOMES
EXTRAORDINARY AND THE **MAN OF STEEL**
IS WARNED...

"DON'T GET OFF ON
the 13TH FLOOR!"

STORY BY: ELLIOT S. MAGGIN
ART BY: CURT SWAN &
BOB OKSNER
EDITED BY: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

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AS YOUR
TELEVISION
AUDIENCE
CAN SEE,
ROY RAYMOND--



I, RUDY
GAFFER--



--HAVE BENT
THE KEY
IN MY
HAND--



--USING
PURELY
PSYCHIC
ENERGY!



REALLY,
MR. GAFFER?



THEN YOU CLAIM IT'S
A COINCIDENCE THAT AN
IDENTICAL KEY--UNBENT--
IS SECRETED IN A POUCH
ON YOUR SHIRTSLEEVE?



YOU'RE A FINE *MAGICIAN*,
MR. GAFFER-- BUT A
LOUSY PSYCHIC!

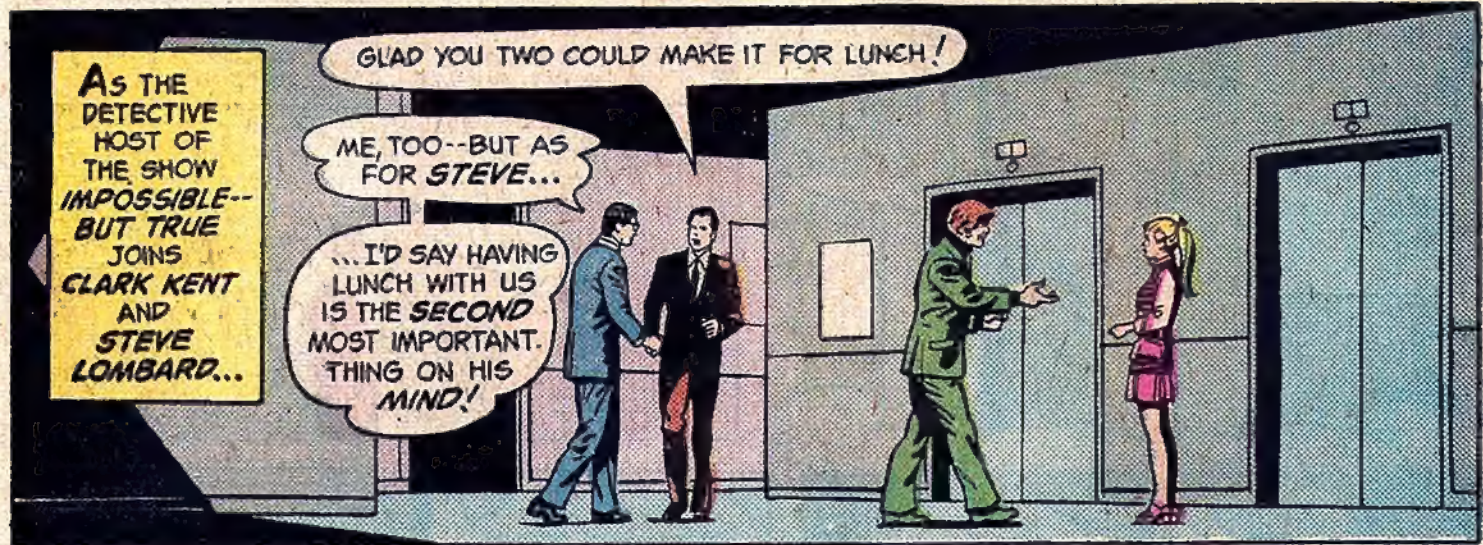
THE TV
DETECTIVE
IS CERTAINLY
MAKING A
SPLASH
WITH HIS
NEW
SHOW!

YEAH,
CLARKIE!
THAT PHONY
HAD
SCIENTISTS
AT THREE
UNIVERSITIES
BELIEVING
HIM...



... AND IT
TOOK ROY
RAYMOND TO
PUNCTURE
HIS STORY!

LET'S
HUSTLE,
STEVE--
WE'VE
GOT TO
MEET
ROY FOR
LUNCH
AS SOON
AS HIS
TAPING IS
OVER!

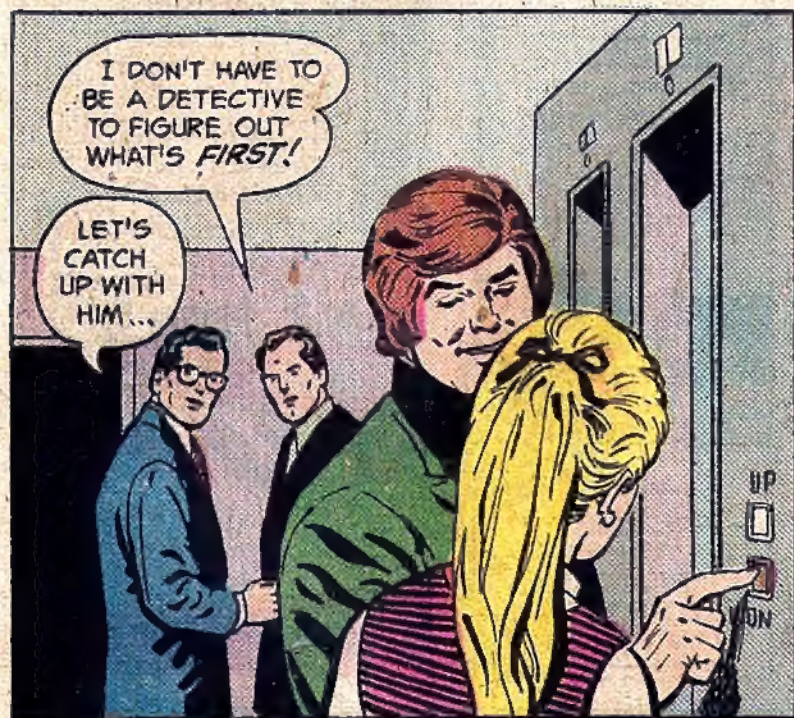


AS THE DETECTIVE HOST OF THE SHOW IMPOSSIBLE-- BUT TRUE JOINS CLARK KENT AND STEVE LOMBARD...

GLAD YOU TWO COULD MAKE IT FOR LUNCH!

ME, TOO-- BUT AS FOR STEVE...

... I'D SAY HAVING LUNCH WITH US IS THE **SECOND** MOST IMPORTANT THING ON HIS MIND!



I DON'T HAVE TO BE A DETECTIVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S **FIRST**!

LET'S CATCH UP WITH HIM...



... BEFORE HE DECIDES...



... TO FORGET ABOUT US--

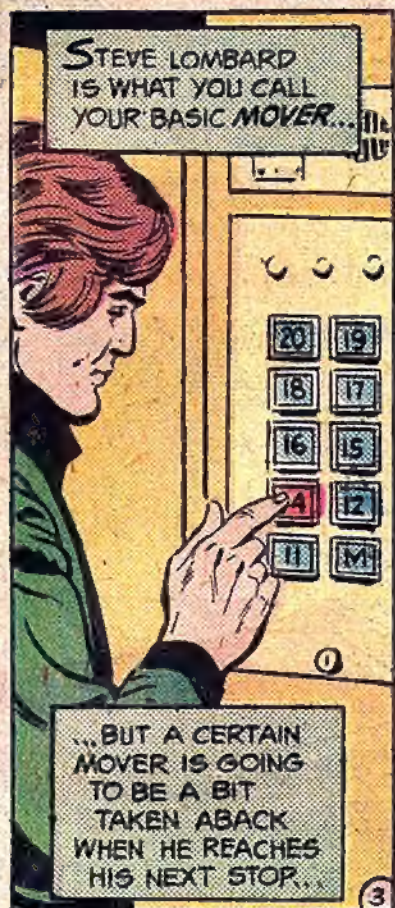
DON'T SWEAT IT, CLARK-- WE'LL GET EVEN WITH HIM LATER!



THE ELEVATOR DOOR CLOSES ON THE 20TH FLOOR-- AND **OPENS** ON THE 16TH...

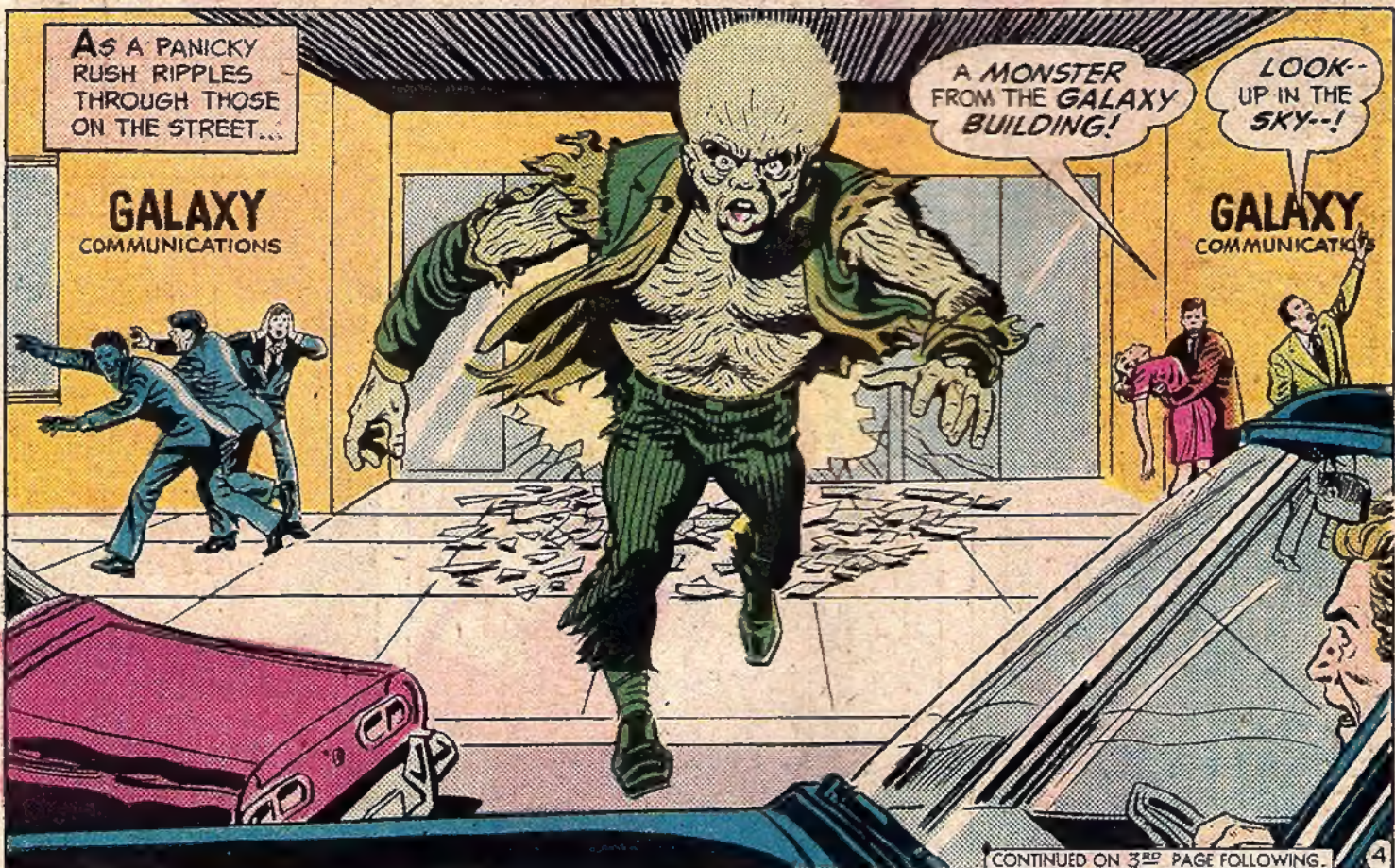
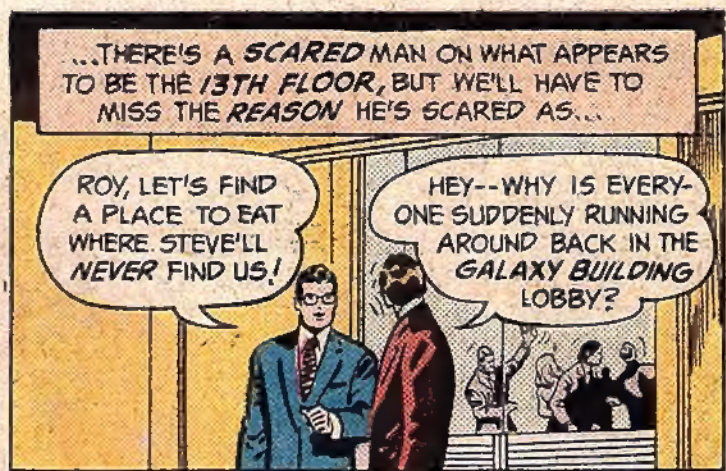
MEET YOU FOR DINNER AT EIGHT, HEY, ALICE?

WHATEVER YOU SAY, STEVE!



STEVE LOMBARD IS WHAT YOU CALL YOUR BASIC **MOVER**...

... BUT A CERTAIN MOVER IS GOING TO BE A BIT TAKEN ABACK WHEN HE REACHES HIS NEXT STOP...



WHAT TO SINK YOUR TEETH INTO WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY AND YOU'RE NOT A WEREWOLF

Every now and then, do you get this uncontrollable urge to bite into something that's really got some meat in it?

Are you tired of sugar-sweet snacks that dissolve in your mouth, and crunchy snacks that you can hardly tell you ate, and all the other boring stuff you have to put up with, every day?

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You might want to carry a few extra ones, too. Then, if you meet a werewolf, you can give him something to sink his teeth into instead of you.



A LITTLE LESS THAN A MEAL. A LITTLE MORE THAN A SNACK.

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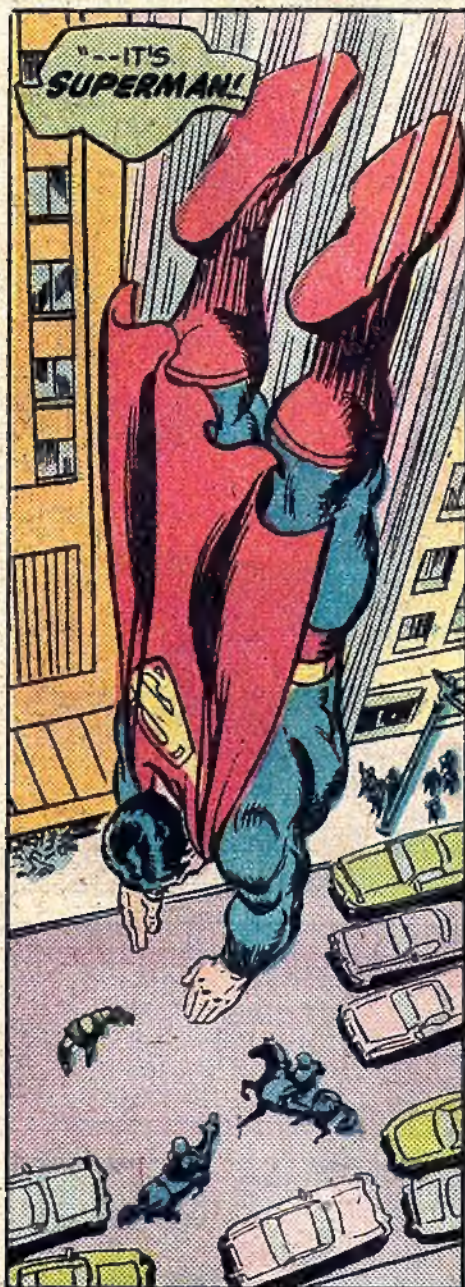
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OLD BURLY'S
ANKLE AS
I FLY BY...



...AND
HOLD ON
AS HE FLIPS
HIMSELF
ON HIS
REAR!



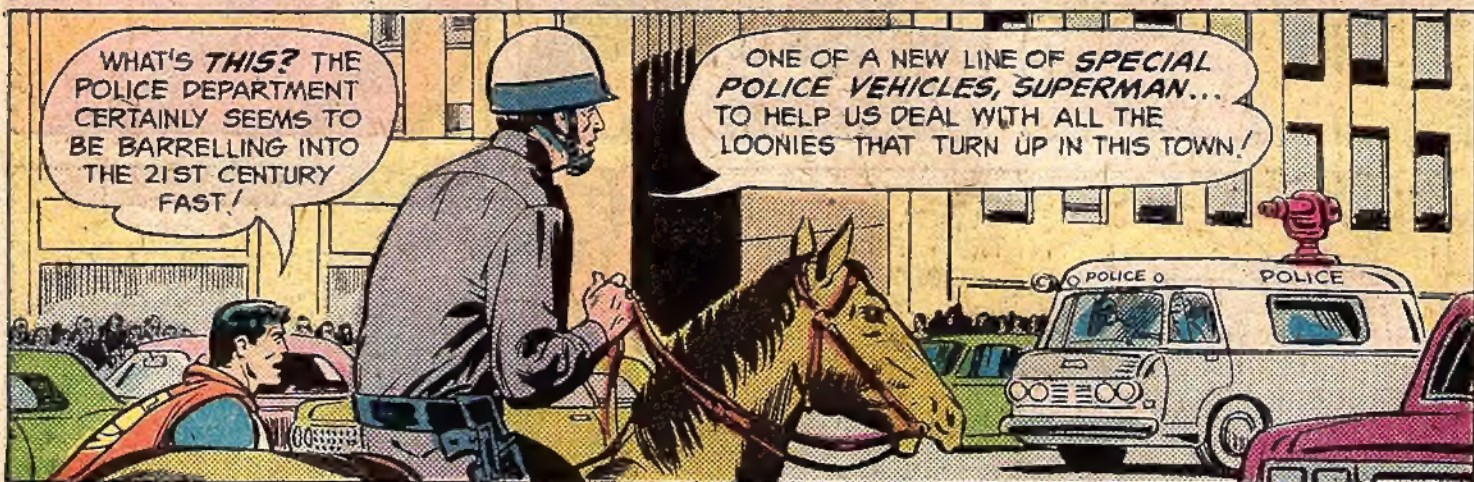
THE PROBLEM
REMAINS--
HOW AM I
GOING TO
DEAL WITH
A NIGHTMARE
CREATURE
AS STRONG
AS I AM--
--ABOUT
WHOM I KNOW
ABSOLUTELY
NOTHING?



BUT THE QUESTION
UNEXPECTEDLY
BECOMES
MEANINGLESS, AS...

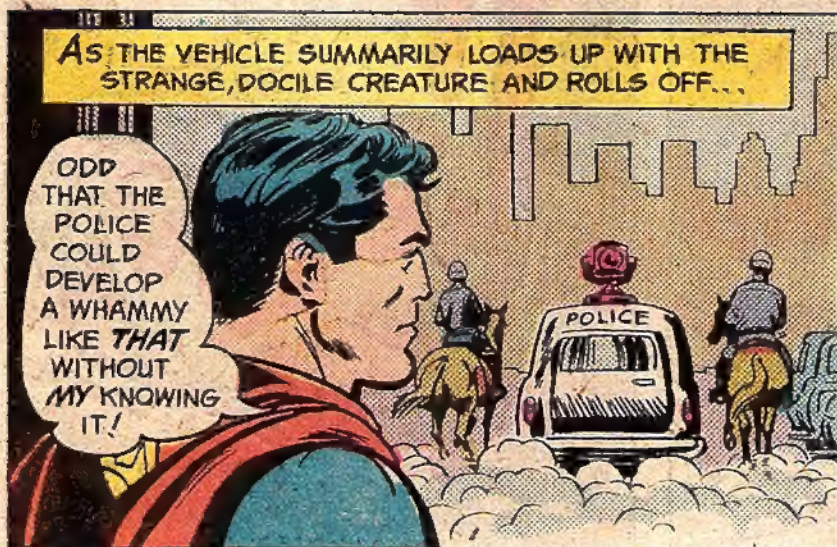
WHA--??

EMERGENCY OVER,
MEN-- WE HAVE
RENDERED THE
CREATURE HARMLESS!



WHAT'S *THIS*? THE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
CERTAINLY SEEMS TO
BE BARRELLING INTO
THE 21ST CENTURY
FAST!

ONE OF A NEW LINE OF *SPECIAL*
POLICE VEHICLES, SUPERMAN...
TO HELP US DEAL WITH ALL THE
LOONIES THAT TURN UP IN THIS TOWN!



AS THE VEHICLE SUMMARILY LOADS UP WITH THE
STRANGE, DOCILE CREATURE AND ROLLS OFF...

ODD
THAT THE
POLICE
COULD
DEVELOP
A WHAMMY
LIKE *THAT*
WITHOUT
MY KNOWING
IT!



GOOD REASON FOR *SUPERMAN* TO
WONDER... FOR IT *ISN'T* A POLICE
VEHICLE AT ALL...

HAVE
INTERCEPTED
THE CLIENT
IN EARLY
CONVULSIVE
STAGES...
WILL DELIVER
HIM TO THE
NEAREST PICKUP
POINT--

...THEN *WHAT* IS IT?

BY THE TIME THE EXCITEMENT DIES DOWN, ROY RAYMOND AND CLARK KENT BOTH SEEM SHAKEN, AS...

I DON'T FEEL MUCH LIKE EATING NOW-- ALL THAT EXCITEMENT MADE MY STOMACH ACT UP!

KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, BUT--

IS THAT YOU GUYS?

--EH?

STEVE! DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S **UNSAFE** TO RIDE THE ROOF OF AN ELEVATOR?

DON'T TELL ME ABOUT **SAFETY!** THE CRAZIEST THING JUST HAPPENED TO ME IN THIS ELEVATOR...

I PUSHED THE 14TH FLOOR BUTTON AND THE THING STOPPED ON THE 13TH! YET THE BUILDING DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A 13TH FLOOR!

BUT THAT'S NOT THE **HALF** OF IT! WHEN THE DOOR OPENED, IT WASN'T EVEN IN THE **BUILDING!** IT WAS LIKE FLOATING IN **SPACE--**

I CAN'T REALLY **DESCRIBE** IT! YOU'VE GOT TO LOOK FOR YOURSELVES!

I KNOW THIS IS ANOTHER PRACTICAL JOKE, STEVE, BUT--

NO KIDDING! C'MON... LOOK FOR YOURSELVES!

AND WHEN THE ELEVATOR REACHES ITS DESTINATION...

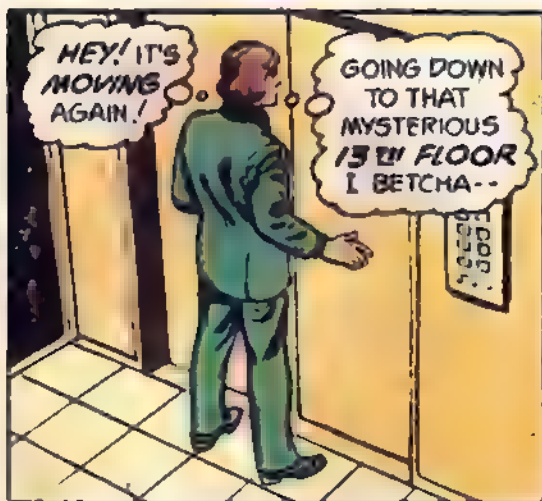
14TH FLOOR-- FUN, GAMES AND THE **GALAXY RECORD COMPANY!**

SURPRISE, SURPRISE!

BUT I COULD HAVE **SWORN...**

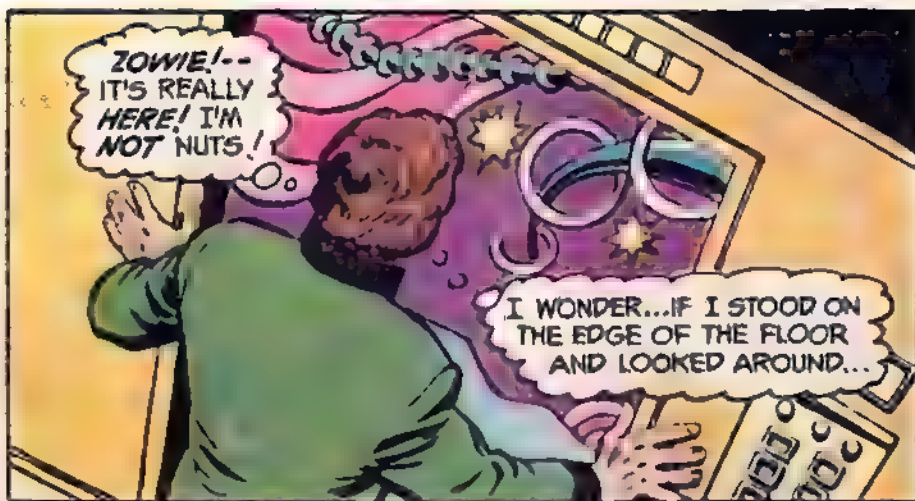
IF YOU DON'T MIND, CLARK AND I WILL TAKE ANOTHER ELEVATOR UPSTAIRS WHILE LITTLE STEVIE PLAYS WITH THE BUTTONS SOME MORE!

MAYBE IF I PUSHED THE 14TH FLOOR BUTTON AGAIN...?



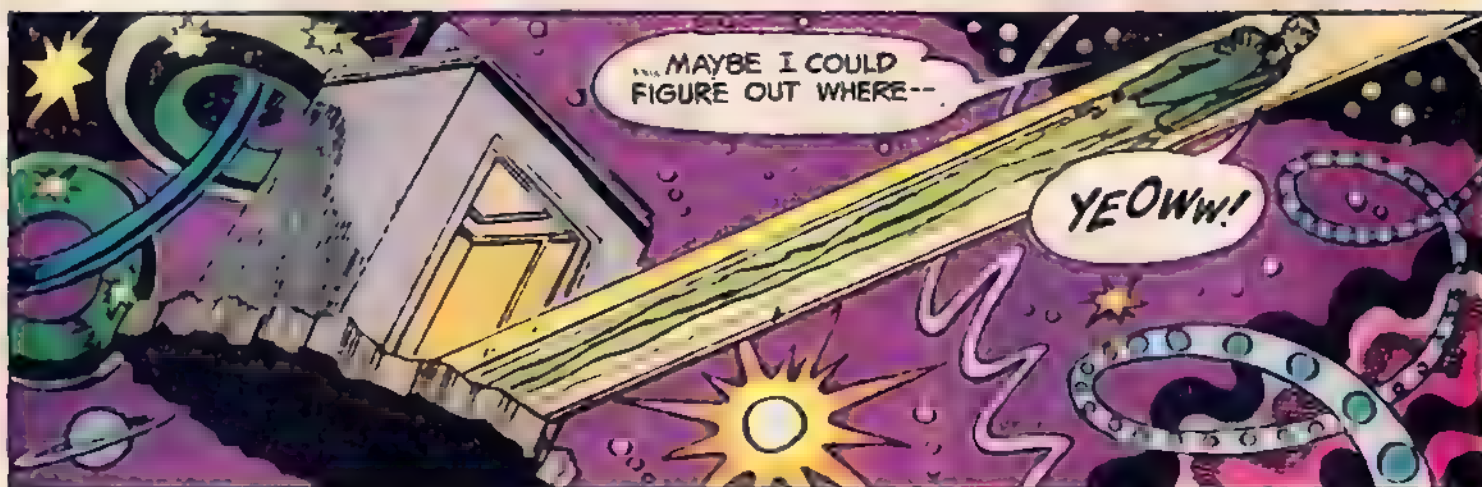
HEY! IT'S MOVING AGAIN!

GOING DOWN TO THAT MYSTERIOUS 13TH FLOOR I BETCHA--



ZOWIE!-- IT'S REALLY HERE! I'M NOT NUTS!

I WONDER...IF I STOOD ON THE EDGE OF THE FLOOR AND LOOKED AROUND...



...MAYBE I COULD FIGURE OUT WHERE--

YEOWW!

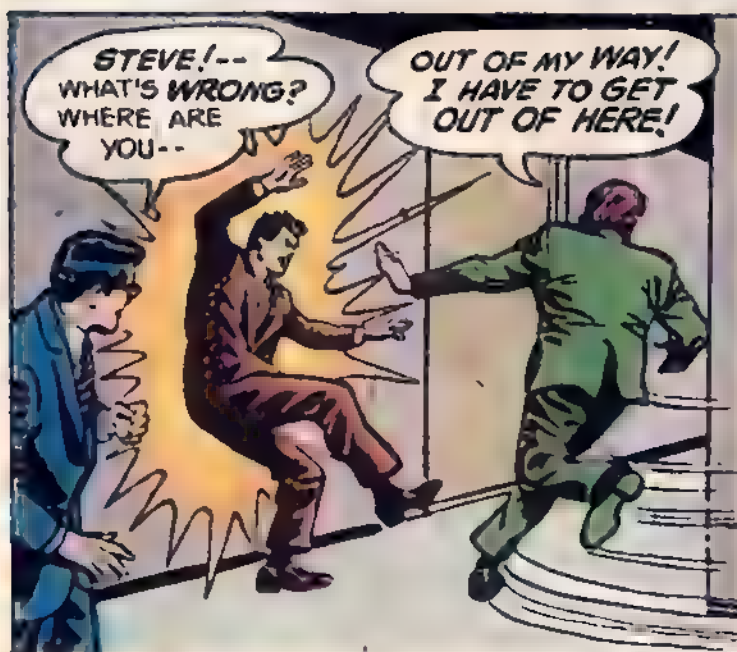


MEANWHILE, ON THE FLOOR OF THE BUILDING THAT HOUSES THE TELEVISION STUDIOS...

YOUR FRIEND STEVE LOMBARD IS CERTAINLY A BIT... ODD!

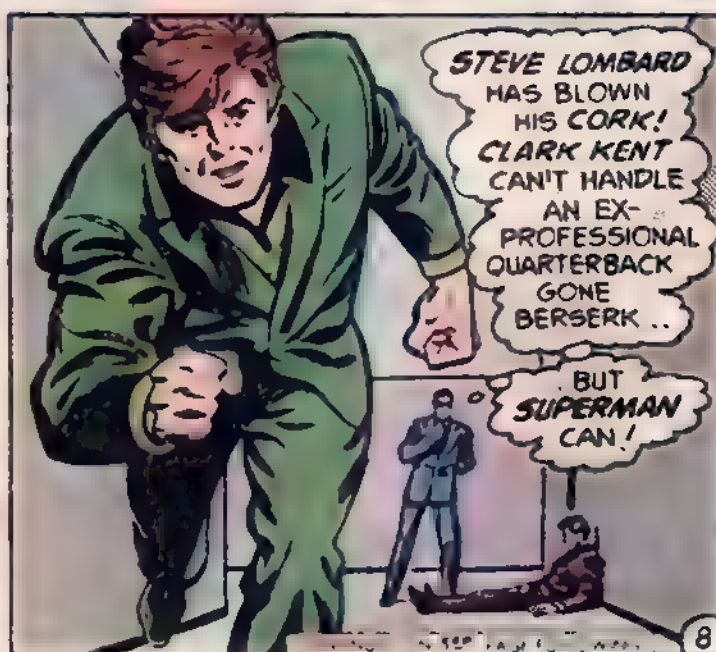
HE'S NOT REALLY A BAD SORT--A LITTLE VAIN, MAYBE, BUT--

HELP ME--!



STEVE!-- WHAT'S WRONG? WHERE ARE YOU--

OUT OF MY WAY! I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!



STEVE LOMBARD HAS BLOWN HIS CORK! CLARK KENT CAN'T HANDLE AN EX-PROFESSIONAL QUARTERBACK GONE BERSERK...

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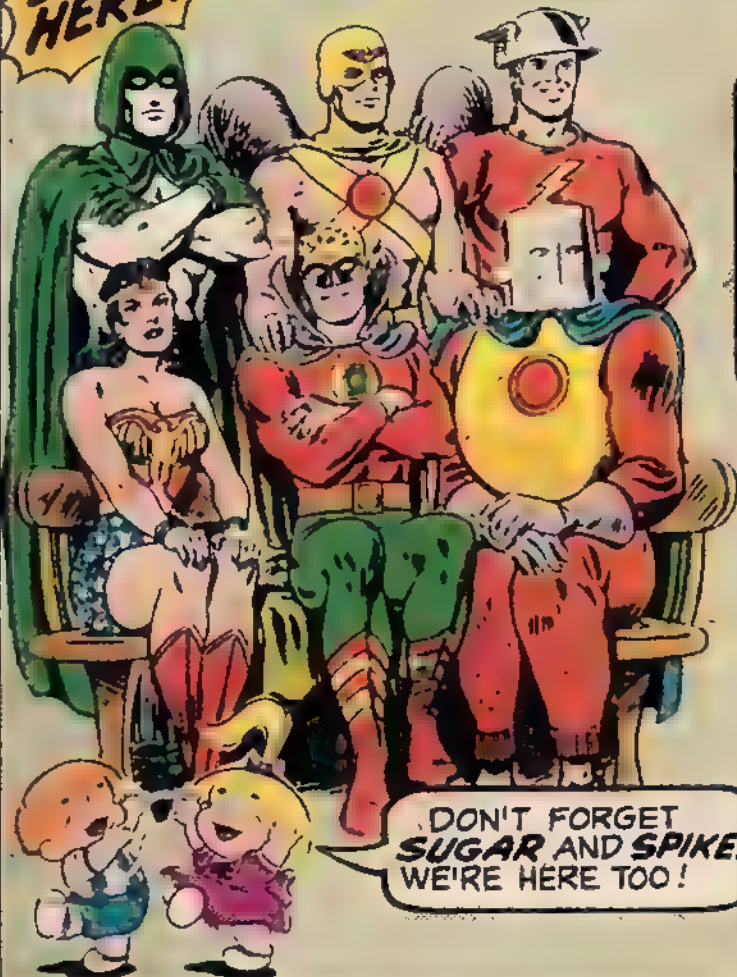
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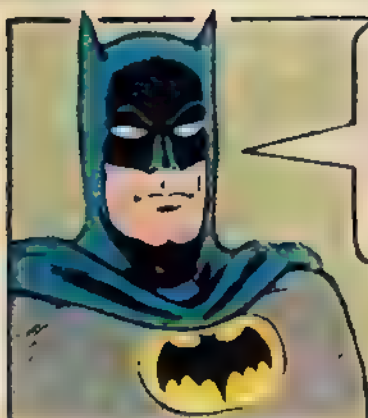
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THE FIGURE
THAT BUFFALOS
THROUGH THE
HEAVY SEALED
DOORS OF THE
WGBS
NEWSROOM...

...IS NO LONGER
QUITE
RECOGNIZABLE
AS **STEVE LOMBARD**
THE SPORTSCASTER!...

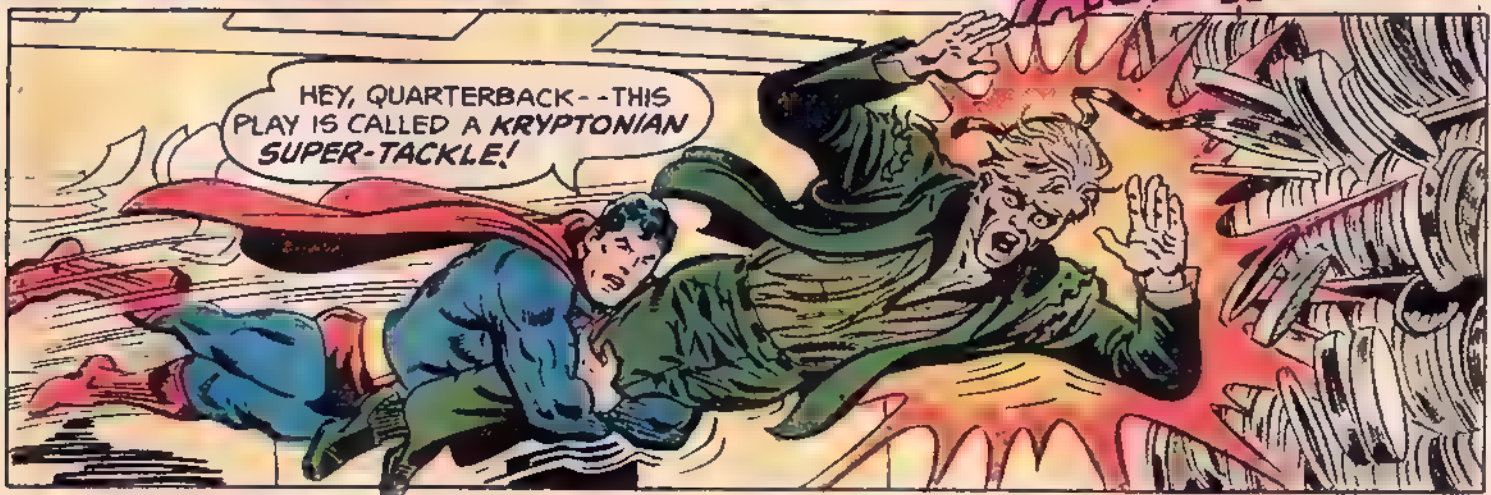


BUT THE MAN
OF STEEL WHO
FOLLOWS THE
JUGGERNAUT
THROUGH THE
SPLINTERED
DOOR IS
UNMISTAKABLE
AS...

...**SUPERMAN!**

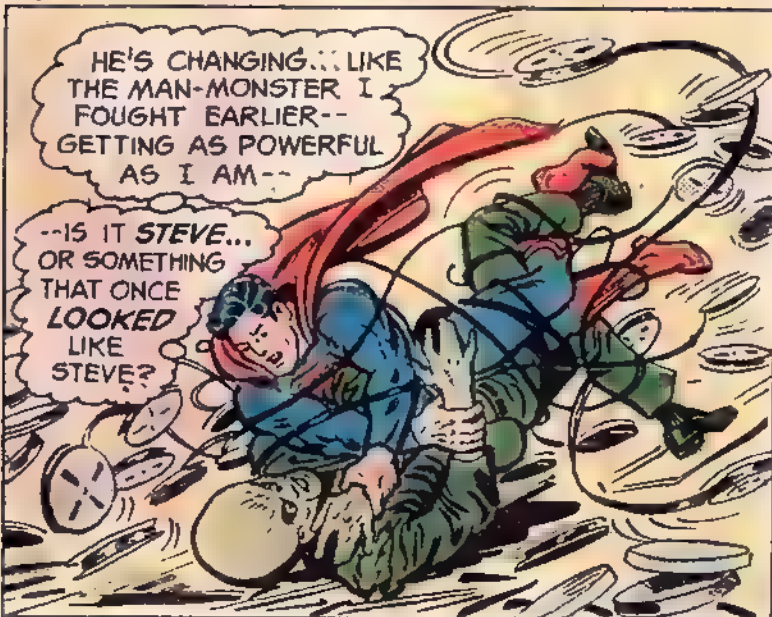


HEY, QUARTERBACK--THIS
PLAY IS CALLED A **KRYPTONIAN**
SUPER-TACKLE!



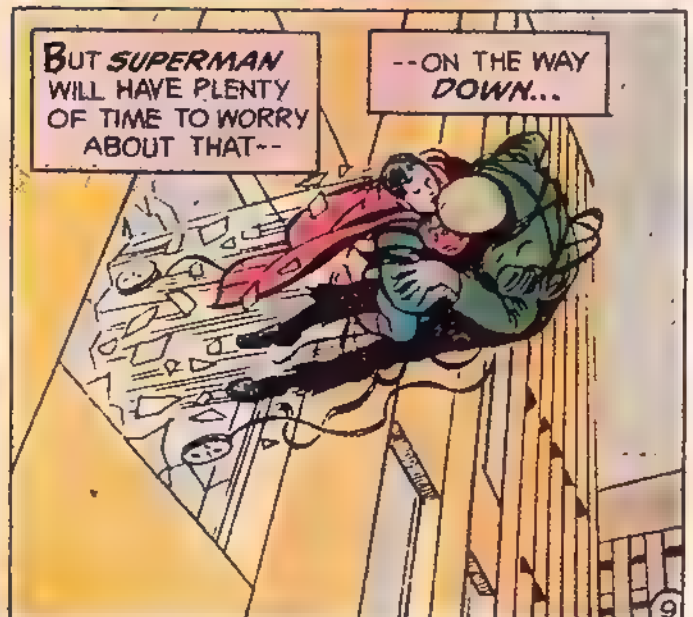
HE'S CHANGING... LIKE
THE MAN-MONSTER I
FOUGHT EARLIER--
GETTING AS POWERFUL
AS I AM--

--IS IT **STEVE**...
OR SOMETHING
THAT ONCE
LOOKED
LIKE
STEVE?



BUT **SUPERMAN**
WILL HAVE PLENTY
OF TIME TO WORRY
ABOUT THAT--

--ON THE WAY
DOWN...



AS MEANWHILE, A BEAM
OF SOMETHING THAT TRAVELS
AT MULTI-LIGHT SPEED
KNIFES ACROSS THE
DIMENSIONS OF SPACE...

...TO STOP IN A
PLACE UNLIKE ANY
WE HAVE EVER SEEN...

ANOTHER HAPPY
VACATIONER
RETURNING TO
TYBALT FROM
PLANET EARTH!

WHAT
IS THIS?
WHERE
AM I--?!

THIS IS NOT A
TYBALTIAN... HE
HAS NOT CHANGED
BACK TO HIS
ORIGINAL FORM!

IT IS THE *EARTH*
MAN AFTER WHOM
WE MODELED
THE TYBALTIAN
VACATIONER'S
DISGUISE!

HE MUST
HAVE
STUMBLED
UPON OUR
TRANSPORTER
COMPLEX AND
ACTIVATED
IT BY
APPEARING
TO BE THE
DISGUISED
VACATIONER!

I SUPPOSE
THE ONLY
WAY FOR
US TO
AVOID
TROUBLE
IS TO
DESTROY
THE
EVIDENCE!

AS IF THAT
WEREN'T ENOUGH
ECCENTRIC
BEHAVIOR...ON A
HUNCH, THE TV
DETECTIVE HAS
STEPPED OUTSIDE
THE **GALAXY**
BUILDING AND...

47...
48...
49...

...**THE**
IMPOSSIBLE
MAN DOESN'T
SEEM TO
NOTICE AT ALL
THAT A HERO
AND A MONSTER
ARE FALLING
FROM THE SKY...

50...51...
52 STORIES...
EUREKA!

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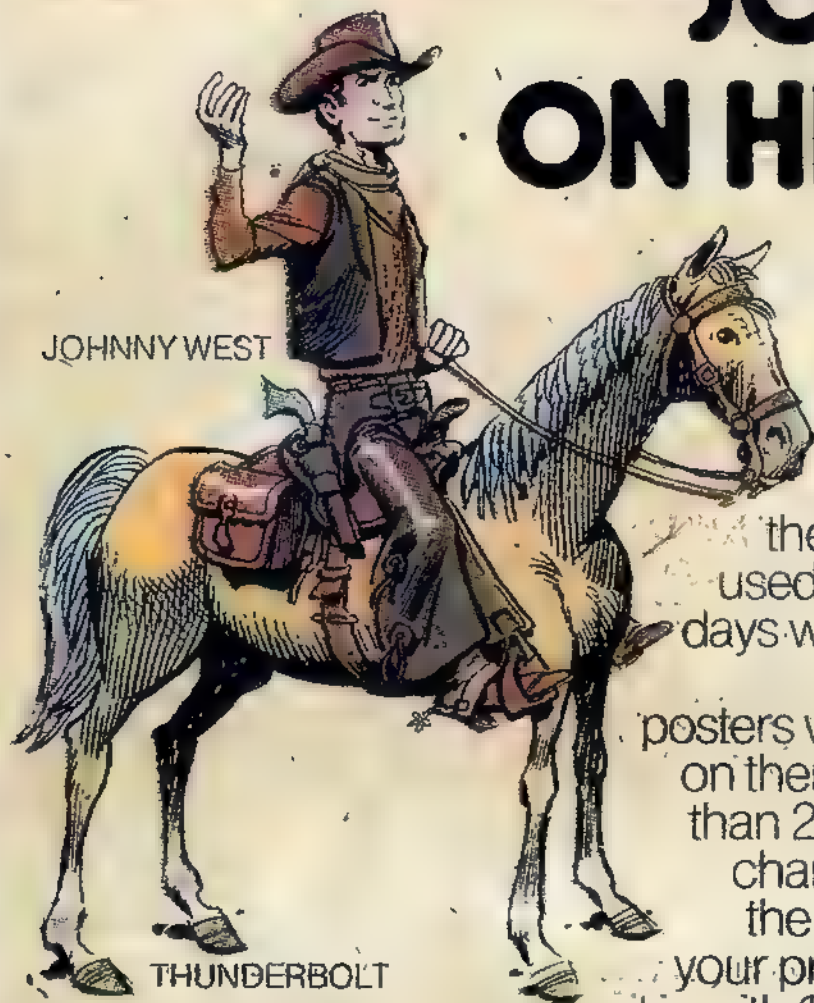
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JOHNNY WEST

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A TANGLE OF VIDEOTAPE
TUMBLE TO THE GROUND...



IF I
DON'T
AT
LEAST
GET THIS
MONSTER
OUT OF
THE CITY
SOON,
HE'LL--
EH?

SUPERMAN! I'M NOT
SURE WHAT THE STORY
IS, BUT THIS CREATURE
IS SOMEHOW LINKED
TO THE BUILDING'S
13TH FLOOR!



WHEN THE
BUILDERS
'NUMBERED
THESE FLOORS
FROM 12
TO 14,
THEY DIDN'T
REALIZE
THERE REALLY
WAS A
**SECRET
13TH FLOOR**
BETWEEN
THEM!

I COUNTED!
THERE'S AN
EXTRA FLOOR
IN THE
BUILDING
NO ONE
KNOWS
ABOUT!



A
**SECRET
FLOOR--**
THAT MAY
'HAVE'
SOMETHING
TO DO WITH
THE CRAZY
WAY **STEVE**
WAS ACTING
BEFORE!

I CAN'T
THINK OF
ANYTHING
BETTER
TO DO...
SO--



AND AS **SUPERMAN**
AND HIS CARGO CRASH
THROUGH THE **13TH
FLOOR WINDOW** IN--
TO AN EERIE VOID...

...THEY
ARE
HIT
BY A
BEAM!

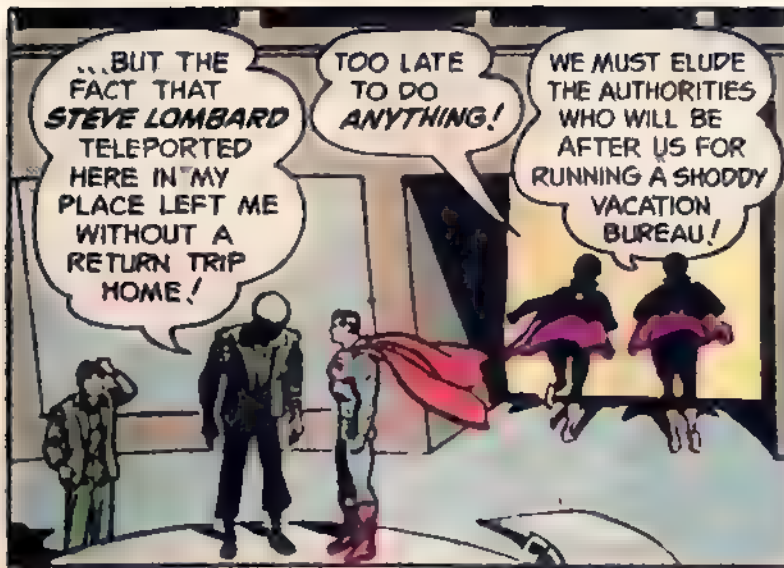


AND FASTER THAN
THE SPEED OF
THOUGHT...

WE'RE
ON...
ANOTHER
WORLD--
BUT
WHERE?

THE
PLANET
IS CALLED
TYBALT,
MR.
SUPERMAN!

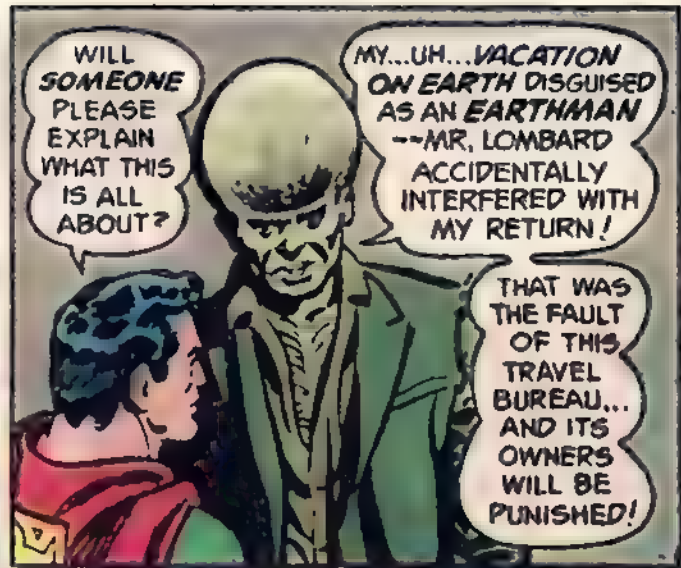
BY
THE
WAY, I
REGRET
BEING
SUCH A
PROBLEM
TO YOU
BEFORE...



...BUT THE FACT THAT **STEVE LOMBARD** TELEPORTED HERE IN MY PLACE LEFT ME WITHOUT A RETURN TRIP HOME!

TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING!

WE MUST ELUDE THE AUTHORITIES WHO WILL BE AFTER US FOR RUNNING A SHODDY VACATION BUREAU!



WILL **SOMEONE** PLEASE EXPLAIN WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?

MY...UH...**VACATION ON EARTH** DISGUISED AS AN **EARTHMAN** --MR. LOMBARD ACCIDENTALLY INTERFERED WITH MY RETURN!

THAT WAS THE FAULT OF THIS TRAVEL BUREAU... AND ITS OWNERS WILL BE PUNISHED!



"YOU SEE, SIR, I BOUGHT A **DELUXE VACATION ON EARTH**, COMPLETE WITH AN ESTABLISHED **NATIVE IDENTITY...**"

"I PLAYED **SCRABBLE**, ATE ICE CREAM SUNDAES, FELT ANGER--ALL THINGS **REAL EARTH PEOPLE** DO..."



"ONE OF **TYBALT'S** MAJOR TELE-PORT STATIONS HAS BEEN LOCATED ON THE **13TH FLOOR** OF THE **GALAXY BUILDING** SINCE THE BUILDING WAS BUILT..."

"UNTIL THESE DISREPUTABLE TRAVEL AGENTS TAMPERED WITH IT, CARE WAS TAKEN THAT IT WOULD NOT BE DISCOVERED..."



"...BECAUSE IF WE STAY ON THE PLANET TOO LONG, WE BEGIN TO CHANGE TO OUR ORIGINAL FORMS..."

"...AND, LIKE MYSELF AND THE **TYBALTIAN** YOU FOUGHT EARLIER, WE GAIN SUPER-STRENGTH AND GO INTO CONVULSIONS IN EARTH'S AIR..."



YOU MEAN WE'RE A **VACATIONLAND** FOR YOUR WORLD?

YES--ONE OF THE MOST CHARMING ONES IN THE **GALAXY!**

AND THOSE "POLICE" WERE OBVIOUSLY **TYBALTIAN**S RECOVERING A TOURIST!

TELL YOU WHAT... I WON'T INTERFERE WITH YOUR PLANET'S TOURIST TRADE IF YOUR AUTHORITIES CAN GET US HOME!

SOME TIME LATER, IN THE
FABULOUS *GALAXY BUILDING*...

YOU'RE SURE
WE'LL ENCOUNTER
OUR FRIEND DOWN
THIS HALL, CLARK?

ALMOST
CERTAIN...
ER...
"STEVE!"

...SO THEN I
TOLD THE BOSS--
MORGAN, OLD BOY--

ULP!

STEVIE--
THAT MAN
LOOKS JUST
LIKE YOU!

IT'S THE *TYBALTIAN*S
IN DISGUISE AGAIN!
THEY'RE TAKING OVER
THE *WORLD*!

STEVE--MR. KENT--
WILL SOMEONE
PLEASE TELL ME
WHAT'S GOING
ON?

CERTAINLY
DOESN'T TAKE
MUCH TO EXCITE
THE OLD *SLINGER*,
DOES IT?

YOU'RE *ROY*
RAYMOND,
THE DETECTIVE--
DISGUISED AS
STEVIE!

THE
VERY
SAME,
MISS..

...JUST GETTING
BACK AT YOUR FRIEND
FOR A LITTLE PRANK
HE PULLED ON
CLARK AND ME--

--BUT IT
SEEMS WE'VE
LEFT YOU
WITHOUT A
DATE FOR
DINNER!

ALICE--
"ALICE HERMAN!"
LOOKS AS IF
I'VE FOUND A
NEW DINNER
PARTNER, DOESN'T
IT?

BY THE WAY,
WHAT WAS
YOUR NAME...?

THE
END

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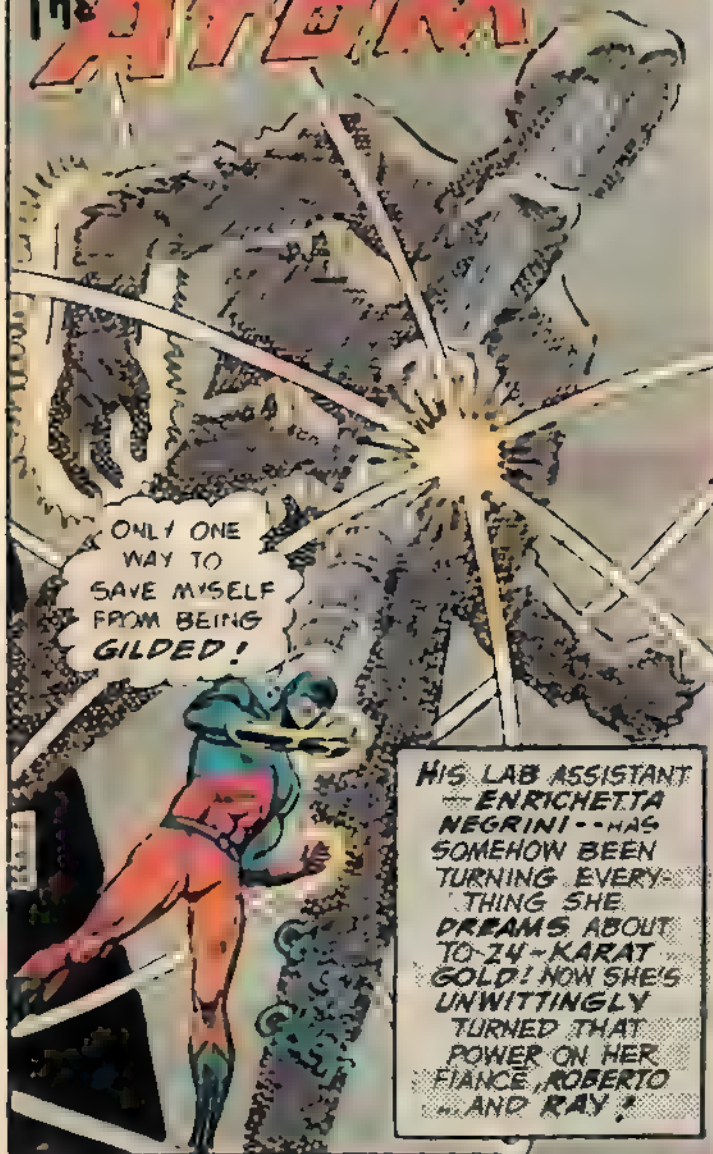
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THINK YOU HAVE PROBLEMS? CONSIDER PHYSICIST RAY PALMER, WHO CAN SHRINK IN SIZE TO BECOME THE WORLD'S SMALLEST SUPER-HERO...

The ATOM



ONLY ONE WAY TO SAVE MYSELF FROM BEING GILDED!

HIS LAB ASSISTANT ENRICHETTA NEGRINI--HAS SOMEHOW BEEN TURNING EVERYTHING SHE DREAMS ABOUT TO 24-KARAT GOLD! NOW SHE'S UNWITTINGLY TURNED THAT POWER ON HER FIANCE, ROBERTO... AND RAY!

YOU'VE GOT TROUBLES? YOU DON'T HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO END A...

NIGHTMARE IN GOLD

SCRIPT: MARTIN PASKO

ART: DICK DILLIN and GARCIA LOPEZ

EDITING: JULIUS SCHWARTZ



I STOPPED THE TRANSFORMATION! SINCE ENRICHETTA DREAMED OF RAY PALMER--AND NOT THE ATOM--I HAD ONLY TO SWITCH IDENTITIES--

--AND IN EFFECT, RAY PALMER CEASED TO EXIST!

SO RAY SAVED HIMSELF, YOU SAY? HE'S GOT NO MORE PROBLEMS? LISTEN...

FIRST, EVERYTHING IN MY LAB TURNS TO GOLD! THEN ALL MY GOLDEN EQUIPMENT GETS RIPPED OFF!

NOW BOTH ENRICHETTA AND ROBERTO ARE MISSING! *

HEY! HER THERMOS! LOOKS LIKE SHE DROPPED IT--IN A STRUGGLE!



WHA-AA-AA?!



*ALL AS SHOWN LAST ISSUE!

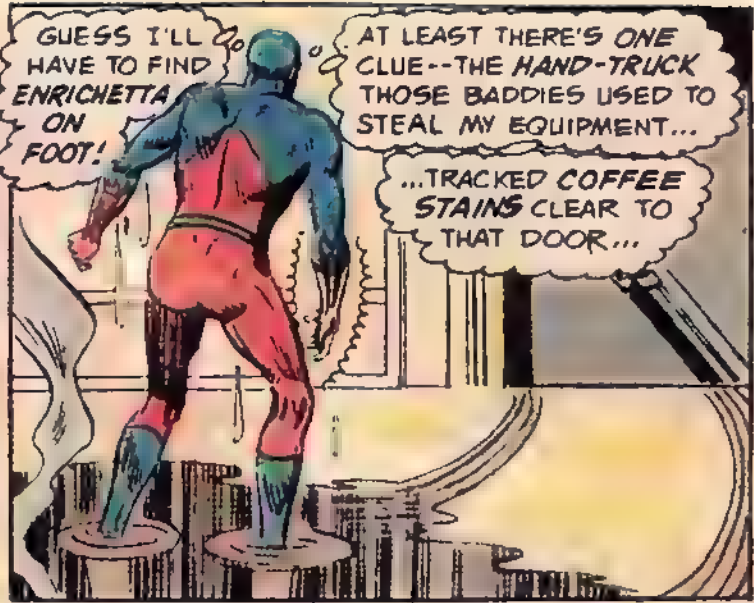
—Foum





"ATOM,"
YOU
NERD!

YOUR WEIGHT-
CONTROLS
DON'T COUNT
FOR DIDDLY—
SQUAT WHILE YOU'RE
BOGGED DOWN BY YOUR
HEAVY GOLDEN ARM!



GUESS I'LL
HAVE TO FIND
ENRICHETTA
ON
FOOT!

AT LEAST THERE'S ONE
CLUE--THE HAND-TRUCK
THOSE BADDIES USED TO
STEAL MY EQUIPMENT...

...TRACKED COFFEE
STAINS CLEAR TO
THAT DOOR...



...WHICH LEADS
TO ONLY ONE
PLACE--



--"THE BASEMENT"--

STAN--
YOU
SURE
THIS
SUGGESTION
STUFF
WORKS?

YEAH! LIKE
THEM RECORDS
YA LEARN
LANGUAGES
FROM WHILE
YA SLEEP--

--WE SUGGEST
AN OBJECT
TO HER... SHE
DREAMS ABOUT
IT... AND 'WE
SWIPE IT WHEN
IT TURNS TO
GOLD



ENRICHETTA.
LISTEN--
THE LECTERN
IN LECTURE-
HALL 101!

!MUMBLE!
THIEVES...
!MUMBLE!...
BAD MAN...



HOLY MOLASSES! WE--
WE'RE TURNIN' TO
GOLD!

SHE'S DREAMIN'
ABOUT US!

GARY--WAKE
HER UP...
HURRY!

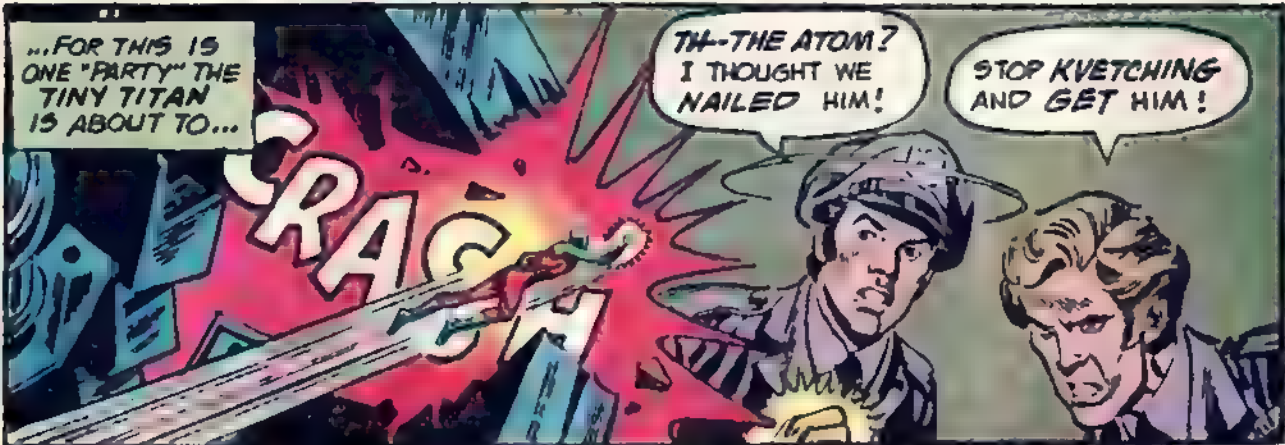
I'M
TRYIN'!
I'M
TRYIN'!

WHAT'S THAT, READER? WHO ARE THE CROOK-TYPES STAGING THIS LITTLE SLUMBER-PARTY? PATIENCE! YOU'LL SOON KNOW...

...FOR THIS IS ONE "PARTY" THE TINY TITAN IS ABOUT TO...

TH--THE ATOM? I THOUGHT WE NAILED HIM!

STOP KVETCHING AND GET HIM!



"GET HIM"?! I--I CAN'T EVEN MOVE!

AWW, SHUCKY DARN! I WAS HOPING YOU'D PUT UP MORE OF A FIGHT!

YOU WANT GOLD? HERE--HAVE SOME!

OOOGGH!



AS I THOUGHT! THESE ARE THE SAME PHONEY SECURITY GUARDS THAT "KIDNAPPED" ROBERTO--UNNH!

OKAY, YOU TURKEY! I'LL CLOBBER THE PIPSQUEAK--AS GOOD AS GOLD! HA HA!

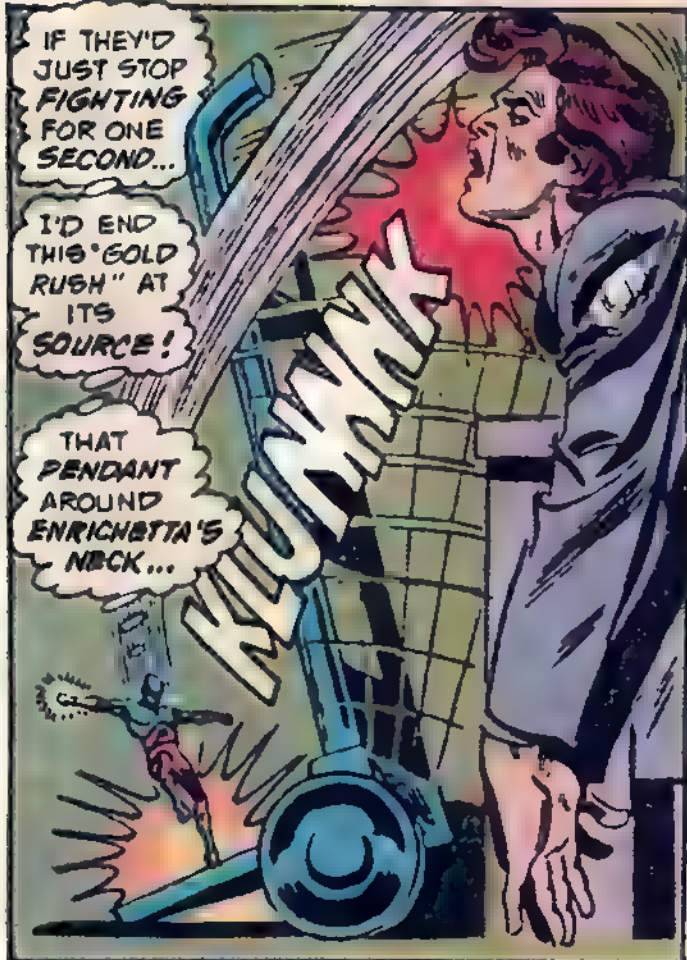


IF THEY'D JUST STOP FIGHTING FOR ONE SECOND...

I'D END THIS "GOLD RUSH" AT ITS SOURCE!

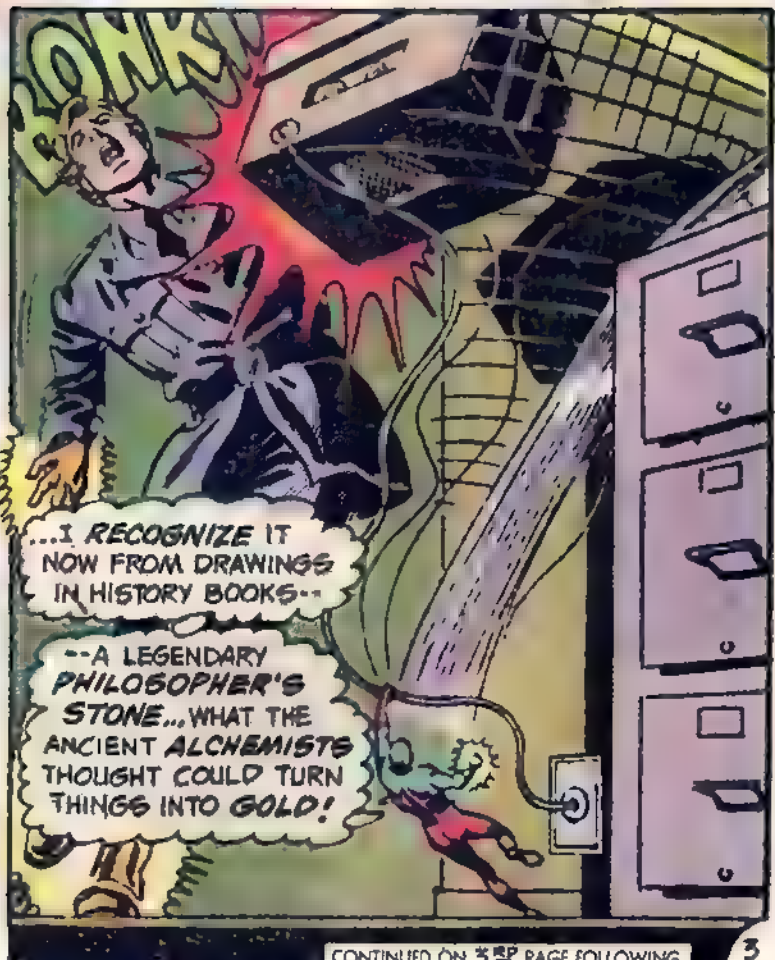
THAT PENDANT AROUND ENRICHETTA'S NECK...

KLUNK!



...I RECOGNIZE IT NOW FROM DRAWINGS IN HISTORY BOOKS--

--A LEGENDARY PHILOSOPHER'S STONE...WHAT THE ANCIENT ALCHEMISTS THOUGHT COULD TURN THINGS INTO GOLD!





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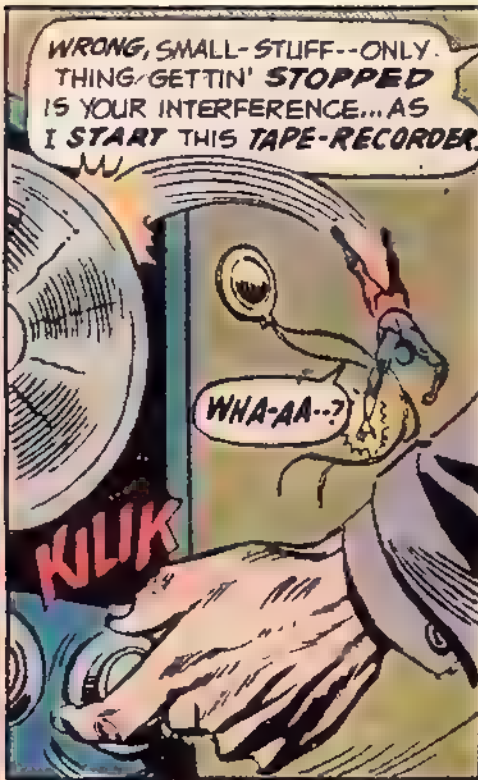
CITY STATE ZIP



EXACTLY
ONE MINUTE
LATER...

5-SIGNORE ATOM--?
YOU WOKE ME?

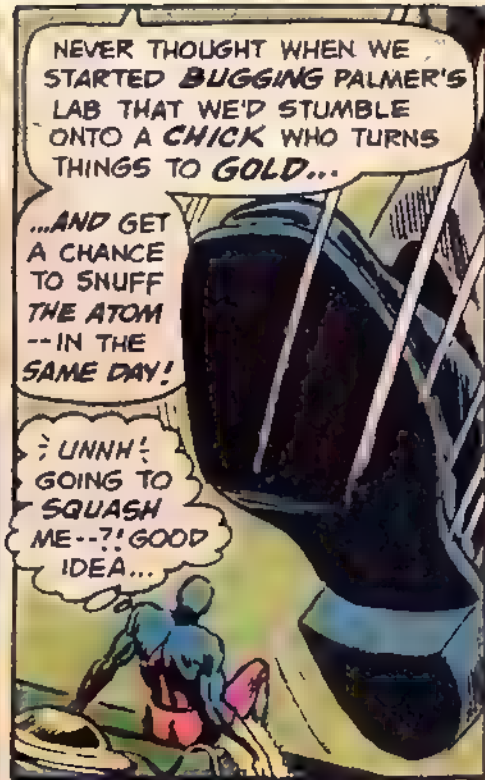
YES, I DID--
TO PUT A STOP
TO YOUR GOLDEN
DREAMS!



WRONG, SMALL-STUFF--ONLY
THING GETTIN' STOPPED
IS YOUR INTERFERENCE...AS
I START THIS TAPE-RECORDER.

WHA-AA--?

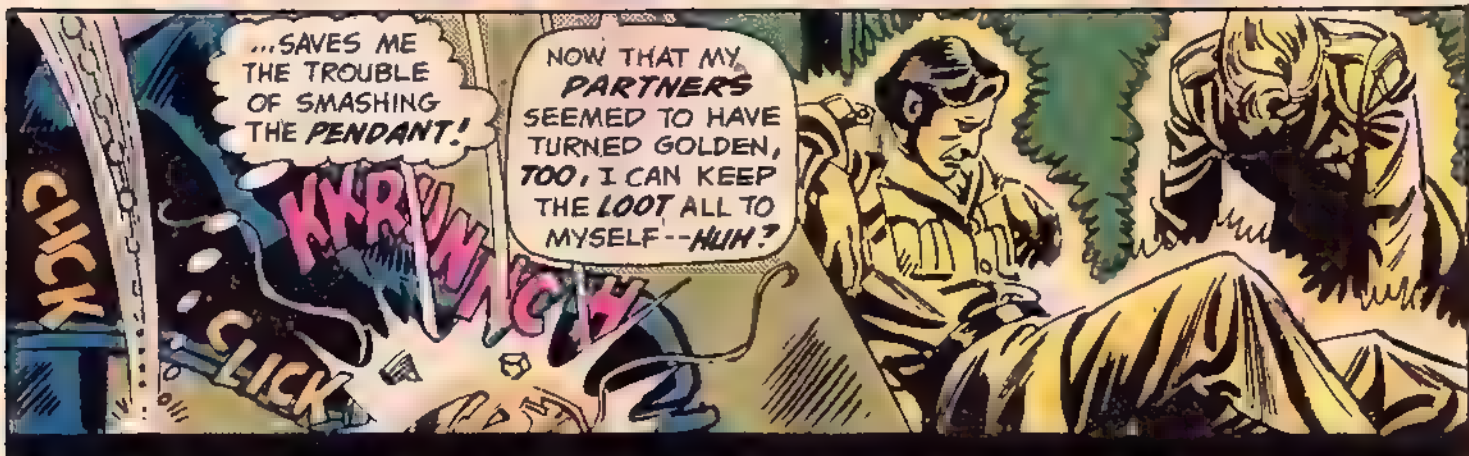
KLIK



NEVER THOUGHT WHEN WE
STARTED BUGGING PALMER'S
LAB THAT WE'D STUMBLE
ONTO A CHICK WHO TURNS
THINGS TO GOLD...

...AND GET
A CHANCE
TO SNUFF
THE ATOM
--IN THE
SAME DAY!

UNNH!
GOING TO
SQUASH
ME--?! GOOD
IDEA...



...SAVES ME
THE TROUBLE
OF SMASHING
THE PENDANT!

NOW THAT MY
PARTNERS
SEEMED TO HAVE
TURNED GOLDEN,
TOO, I CAN KEEP
THE LOOT ALL TO
MYSELF--HUH?

CLICK

KRR

CLICK

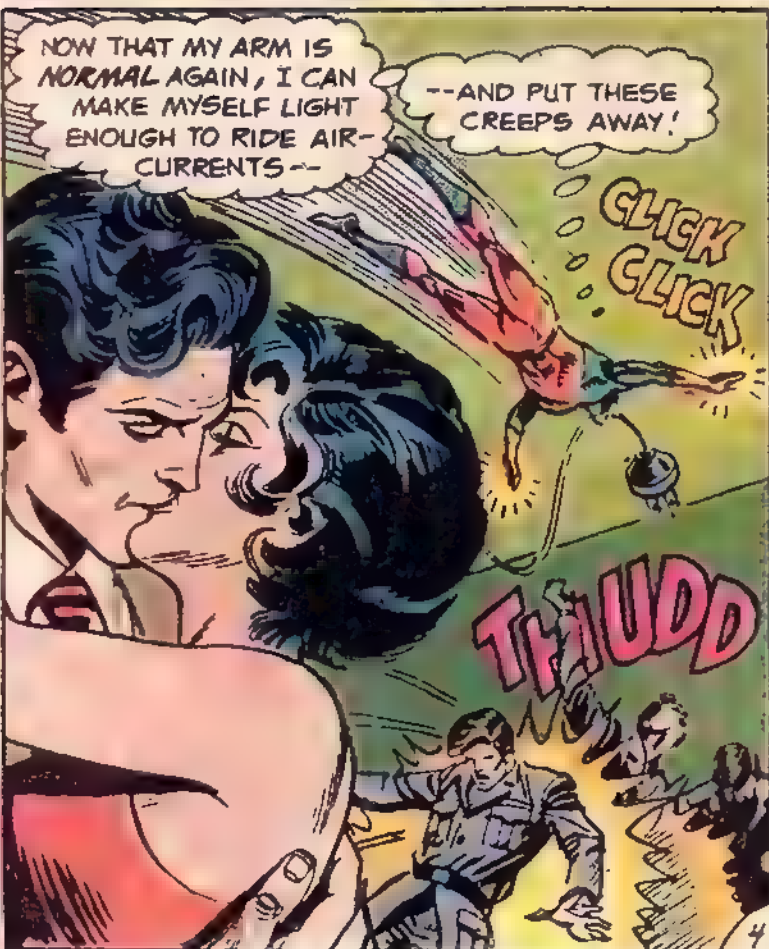


THE GOLD..
GONE--?!

YAAAH!

ROBERTO!

AH! EVERY-
THING'S
RETURNING
TO
NORMAL--
AS I'D
HOPED!



NOW THAT MY ARM IS
NORMAL AGAIN, I CAN
MAKE MYSELF LIGHT
ENOUGH TO RIDE AIR-
CURRENTS--

--AND PUT THESE
CREEPS AWAY!

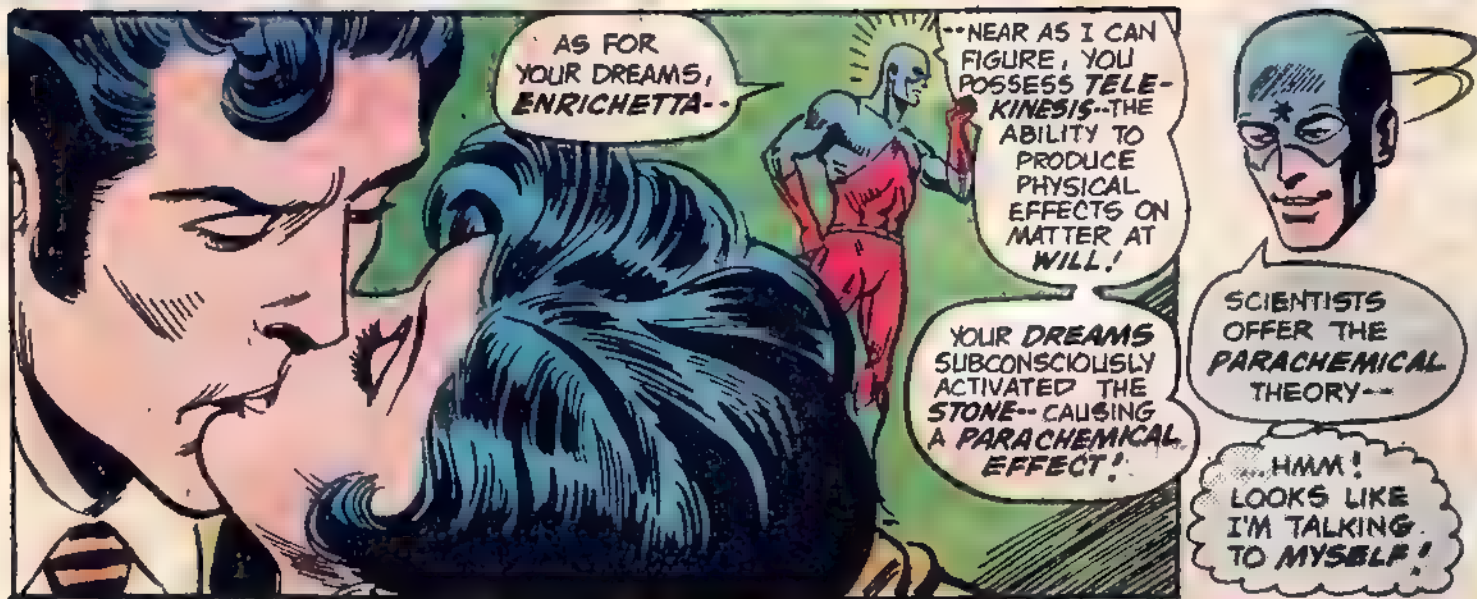
CLICK
CLICK

THUDD



YOU SEE, ENRICHETTA, THESE BOZOS HAVE BEEN BUGGING RESEARCH LABS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY-- AND SELLING THE STOLEN DISCOVERIES TO LARGE CORPORATIONS!

BY POSING AS SECURITY MEN, THEY WERE ABOVE SUSPICION!



AS FOR YOUR DREAMS, ENRICHETTA--

--NEAR AS I CAN FIGURE, YOU POSSESS TELE-KINESIS--THE ABILITY TO PRODUCE PHYSICAL EFFECTS ON MATTER AT WILL!

YOUR DREAMS SUBCONSCIOUSLY ACTIVATED THE STONE--CAUSING A PARACHEMICAL EFFECT!

SCIENTISTS OFFER THE PARACHEMICAL THEORY--

HMM! LOOKS LIKE I'M TALKING TO MYSELF!



WITH THE LOVEBIRDS GONE AND THE CROOKS IN JAIL, THE TINY TITAN REVERTS TO HIS EVERY-DAY PHYSICIST-SELF AND ANSWERS A CALL FROM HIS OWN LOVE-LIGHT, JEAN LORING...

RAY! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I'VE BEEN CALLING FOR HOURS!

UH... I'VE BEEN... AH... BUSY, SWEETHEART!



YOU PROMISED TO TAKE ME TO A MOVIE TONIGHT, REMEMBER--?

IT'S A JAMES BOND DOUBLE-BILL--"MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN" AND "GOLDFINGER"!

OH, NO! I'VE HAD ENOUGH GOLD FOR ONE DAY!



KLUK!

RAY?...RAY?!

RAY--DID YOU HANG UP ON ME??



Dear Editor:

Except for its cover, **Action #444** stands as one of the best issues you've put out in a long time. Not that I found fault with Nick Cardy's rendition of the cover scene; it's just that the whole idea of an anguished **Superman** standing in a celestial spotlight is unnecessarily melodramatic. Moreover, the cover implied that **Green Lantern** was the killers' all-powerful target, thereby depriving your readers of what could have been a powerful surprise ending.

Still, "Beware the Hero Killers" was quite ingenious considering that it was the second time in four issues that a villain tried using **Superman** to strike at another super-hero (first **Flash** in ish 441, and now **GL**). I particularly liked the way Cary Bates handled the scene between **Superman** and the police office on page 10. For a while there, I was wondering if **Kydyk** and **Zoyoz** (*Gesundheit!*) weren't planning to break our hero by turning him into a super-paranoid, mistrustful of everyone.

As for **Green Arrow**, four writers are better than one. Yes, I said four. There was a typical Frank Robbins depiction of urban squalor, a Steve Skeates name-dropping (Max Lucker has got to be fan Mark Lucke), a Denny O'Neil portrayal of junkies and dope-pushers, and an Elliot S! Maggin to bring 'em all together. Praise also is due to Mike Grell, who can work eight panels to a page without sacrificing detail or atmosphere in any of them. With all this going for **GA**, I hardly mind waiting for **Action #445** and the story's conclusion.

Ray Engelberg, Bronx, N.Y.

(Didn't you forget one of the writers? After all, Mike Grell came up with the original plot idea!—E.N.B.)

Dear Editor:

I never thought I'd say this, but I'm getting bored with the typical Bates "what-you-see-didn't-really-happen-because-it-was-figured-out-beforehand" ending. **Action #444** was an example of this. Cary Bates stories with these endings are like opening a box of Crackerjacks and knowing what the prize is already!

Hey, wasn't **Sinestro** captured by **Batman** and the **Justice League** last ish? How did he escape so fast? Don't tell me it was his twin brother! Uh... last ish was an imaginary story? This ish was imaginary? Yuk!

Come on! Please try to get some continuity between stories.

Ken Wolf, Yorktown, N.Y.

(Since we had no room in the preceding issue to explain how **SINESTRO** was imprisoned by the **JLA**, there was no need to explain how he escaped! But with a villain as sharp as he is, it's not easy to keep him penned up anywhere—ask **GREEN LANTERN!**—E.N.B.)

.....

Dear Editor:

"Beware the Hero-Killers" in **Action #444** is a nice story, what with two villains interesting in both appearance and personality. **Sinestro's** eerie appearance on pages 2 and 3, and the assassins' spooky, savage attacks on **Superman**. The plot twist would have been great if you hadn't told us on the cover who their real target was.

But I'm really here to discuss **Green Arrow**. Finally, instead of dog-sitting for **Superman**, he's doing something worthy of his talents. The setting of the story, an impoverished area of a major city, filled with crime and drugs, is a much grimmer, grimmer milieu than **The Batman's** glamorous **Gotham**. As such, it perfectly fits **Green Arrow's** character. He is down to earth, emotional, and not all that different from people who don't act as super-heroes. He is a contemporary **Robin Hood**, an underdog battling vast and powerful forces, not an almost superhuman incarnation of vengeance like **The Batman**. In its stand against drugs and organized crime, this story recalls the best features of the **Green Lantern/Green Arrow** series without any of its boring didacticism. The story stays within the super-hero-crime genre where it belongs. **GA's** rapidly-paced, explosive battle scenes here act to release and soothe the reader's frustrated anger against the social ills **GA** battles. **Black Canary** still serves more as **GA's** sidekick than as an equal partner and super-hero in her own right. I notice the same basic situation—hero sends his female helper out to get information, only to have her end up in danger from which the hero rescues her—occurs in three different comics this month. Is this a conspiracy?

Peter Sanderson, Milton, Mass.

(No—it simply demonstrates that great minds run in the same channel!—E. NELSON BRIDWELL.)

204

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